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REMARKS

The following claims are pending in the application: 1 - 20.

The following claim has been amended: 1.

As a result of the foregoing Amendment, the following claims remain pending in the application: 1 – 20.

Formal Matters

Priority

The Examiner acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Germany on March 29, 2001. However, the Examiner noted that there are no copies of the intervening PCT application papers anywhere in the US Application. Applicants will supply under separate cover a certified copy of the German parent application.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner stated that the information disclosure statement filed February 26, 2004 failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. Accordingly, Applicants have included below a concise explanation of the relevance of the two non-English patents included in the IDS, as presently understood by the Applicants, and enclosed translated copies as well.

DE-84 01 333 U1: Briefwaage

DE 84 01 333 U1 discloses an electronic letter balance with a display-unit that can be separated from the weighing-unit and be positioned at a distance from the weighing unit for the purpose of having a good view on the display-unit when large letters are to be weighed. For the transmission of data, a signal-cable connects the two units. When the balance is not in use, the display-unit can be connected to the housing of the weighing-unit by putting a peg, accessible to the housing of the weighing-unit, into a bore hole provided in the housing of the display-unit. Adjacent to the bore hole, there is a recess into which the signal cable can evade.

DE-78 13 781 U1: elektrisches Haushaltsgerät

DE-78 13 781 U1 discloses an electric apparatus for domestic appliance. A cable for the electric supply of the apparatus can be pushed through an opening into a chamber in the housing of the apparatus, wherein the cable folds automatically or in a self-acting manner to "criss-cross" the loops. To avoid damage of the cable when pulling it out of the chamber or pushing it into the chamber, the opening comprises a collar with rounded inner edge.

The Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ober et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,632,199) in view of Yong (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,021). The Examiner stated that Ober et al. discloses a scale that has a detachable keyboard/display unit and the claimed invention except for the retractable cord. The Examiner further stated that it is well known to place retractable cords into the

housing of peripheral devices as shown by Yong and thus it would have been obvious to combine Ober et al. and Yong. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claims recite a corridor compartment located on the bottom of a balance. As amended, Applicants' claims also recite a corridor compartment "configured in a way that the cable is freely movable inside the corridor compartment". claim 1. The Applicants respectfully submit that neither Ober et al. nor Yong disclose or suggest, singularly or in combination, a balance with a compartment for containing a cable. Ober et al. is silent on the subject. While Yong teaches a retractable cable compartment, the compartment is located on a peripheral device such as a computer mouse, not in a main component such as a balance.

Applicants further submit that Ober et al. does not teach or suggest a compartment, let alone, a compartment designed such that a cable is freely movable inside the compartment. In addition, Yong discloses an input device (200) with a reel assembly (214) that allows the cord (204) to be extended and retracted between a fully extended length and a fully retracted length. col. 5, lines 17-21. Applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, Yong's retractable reel assembly extends and retracts the cord onto the reel assembly and does not allow the cord to freely move inside the compartment as recited by Applicants' claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Ober et al. nor Yong, singularly or combined, disclose or suggest a balance having a compartment designed such that a cable can freely move within the compartment and be pushed into the compartment. As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-20 of the present application may be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

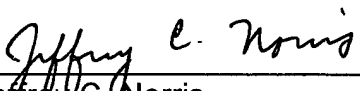
In view of the foregoing amendment and accompanying remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is properly in condition for allowance and may be passed to issuance upon payment of the appropriate fees.

Telephone inquiry to the undersigned in order to clarify or otherwise expedite prosecution of the subject application is respectfully encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



Jeffrey C. Norris
Registration No. 42,039
Standley Law Group LLP
495 Metro Place South
Suite 210
Dublin, OH 43017-5319
Telephone: (614) 792-5555
Facsimile: (614) 792-5536